Elective Affinities: Partnering with
Other Honors Societies and Organizations on Campus

By: James P. Clarke, Dilruba Eva Sultana, and Sharmin Amjad

Long Island University, Brooklyn

New York Sigma Chapter

Which one of the following categories houses your campus chapter?

- Academic departments
- Honors program or college
- Student activities
- Academic and honor societies

New York Sigma’s Dual Affiliation

- Our chapter is both a campus club and a national honor society housed in the Honors College
- Benefits:
  - Increases resources (dual/triple funding streams and greater access to administrators)
  - Increases visibility or institutional presence
  - As a club, AX students have official positions and representation in SGA (student government association)
  - Students work with an annual club budget
  - Affinity between honors students and Alpha Chi (membership pipeline)
- Observations:
  - Annually we have averaged 80 new members per year since 2006 (LIU Brooklyn has approximately 7000 undergraduates per year)
  - Of those, approximately 30 new members are honors students
  - Over the last decade, honors students in AX have tended to organize and run the AX chapter

In other words, make connections with other organizations!

What to consider in partnering with another organization

- Shared values (academic and service projects)
  - Choose common projects that grow out of your school’s strengths (e.g., LIU has large pharmacy and health science programs)
- Increasing AX membership by creating membership pipelines with affinity groups
➢ Sharing costs/increasing resources
➢ Increasing the success of the annual AX national service projects
➢ Increasing visibility on and off campus
➢ Opportunities for expanding your social network

**So, what are your chapter goals?**

**Recommendations:**

➢ Develop an institutional map of your campus groupings
  o Other honor societies
  o Programs (academic or other)
  o Clubs
➢ Identify academic programs/majors that have a strong historical legacy of membership in AX
➢ Look for projects in common (areas of affinity)
  o Academic connections (annual departmental or program conferences to co-advisor)
  o Community service connections (annual service projects to participate in)

**Thank You!**